His Majesties

MOST GRACIOUS

SPEECH

To both Houses of

PARLIAMENT,

On *Saturday* the Twenty third Day of *November*, 1695.

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My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is with great Satisfaction that I Meet you here this Day, being Assured of a Good Disposition in My Parliament, when I have had such full Proofs of the Affection of My People, by their Behaviour during My Absence, and at My Return.

I was Engaged in the present War by the Advice of My First Parliament; who thought it Necessary for the Defence of Our Religion, and for the Preservation of the Liberties of *Europe*. The Last Parliament, with great Cheerfulness, did Assist Me to Carry it on; and I cannot Doubt, but that your Concern for the Common Safety will Oblige you to be Unanimously Zealous in the Prosecution of it. And I am Glad, That the Advantages which We have had this Year, give Us a Reasonable Ground of Hoping for further Success hereafter.

Upon this Occasion, I cannot but take Notice of the Courage and Bravery the *English* Troops have shewn this last Summer, which I may say, has answered their highest Character in any Age: And it will not be denied, That without the Concurrence of the Valour and Power of *England*, it were impossible to put a Stop to the Ambition and Greatness of *France*.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I Think it a great Misfortune, that from the Beginning of My Reign, I have been forced to ask so many and such large Aids of My People; and yet I am Confident you will agree with Me in Opinion,

That there will be at leaſt as Great Supplies requiſite for Carrying on the War by Sea and Land this Year, as was Granted in the laſt Seſſion; the rather, Becauſe Our Enemies are Augmenting their Troops, and the Neceſſity of Increaſing Our Shipping does plainly appear.

The Fonds which have been Given, have proved very Deficient.

The Condition of the Civil Liſt is ſuch, That it will not be poſſible for Me to Subſiſt, unleſs that Matter be taken into your Care.

And Compaſſion Obliges Me to Mention the miſerable Circumſtances of the *French* Proteſtants, who Suffer for their Religion.

And therefore, Gentlemen, I moſt earneſtly Recommend to you, to Provide a Supply ſuitable to theſe ſeveral Occaſions.

I muſt likewiſe take Notice of a great Difficulty We lie under at this time, by Reaſon of the ill State of the Coin; the Redreſs of which, may perhaps prove a further Charge to the Nation: But this is a Matter of ſo general Concern, and of ſo very great Importance, That I have thought fit to leave it intirely to the Conſideration of My Parliament.

I did Recommend to the laſt Parliament, the Forming ſome Good Bill for the Incouragement and Increaſe of Seamen. I hope you will not let this Seſſion paſs without doing ſomewhat in it, and that you will conſider of ſuch Laws as may be Proper for the Advancement of Trade, and will have a particular Regard to that of the *Eaſt-Indies*, leſt it ſhould be loſt to the Nation. And while the War makes it neceſſary to have an Army Abroad, I could wiſh ſome Way might be thought of, to Raiſe the neceſſary Recruits, without giving Occaſion of Complaint.

My Deſire to Meet My People in a New Parliament, has made the Opening of this Seſſion very late; which, I Hope, you will have ſuch Regard to, as to make all poſſible Diſpatch of the great Buſineſs before you, and will call to Mind, That by the long Continuance of the laſt Seſſion, We did not only loſe Advantages which We might have had at the Beginning of the Campaign, but gave the Enemy ſuch an Opportunity, as might have proved very Fatal to Us. And I am the more Concerned to Preſs this, becauſe of the great Preparations which the *French* make to be Early in the Field this Year.

My Lords,

I have had ſuch Experience of your Good Affections; and I have ſuch an entire Satisfaction in the Choice which My People have made of you, *Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons*, that I Promiſe My Self a Happy Concluſion of this Seſſion, unleſs you ſuffer your ſelves to be miſled into Heats and Diviſions; which being the only Hope Our Enemies have now left, I make no Doubt but you will entirely Diſappoint by your Prudence and Love to your Countrey.

FINIS.